



# Department of Justice

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## **SEX OFFENDER RECEIVES 19 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR FAILING TO REGISTER**

*MORE RESULTS FROM U.S. ATTORNEY'S VIOLENT CRIME INITIATIVE*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Larry R. Mercer, 41, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 19 months in prison on Thursday by U.S. District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt following his guilty plea for failing to register as a sex offender and traveling interstate.

Mercer was convicted of incest in Marion County, Indiana, Superior Court in 2006. After his release from prison, he registered as a sex offender in March and May 2010. He then traveled in August of 2010 to Illinois failing to tell authorities either in Indiana or Illinois of his new address. The U.S. Marshal's Service in Indiana and Illinois began an investigation to determine his whereabouts. He was located in Decatur, Illinois in January 2011, in a residence with a woman with whom he had been living since September 2010.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Walton Pratt also imposed supervised release for the rest of Mercer's lifetime following Mercer's release from prison. During the period of supervised release, Mercer must continue to register as a sex offender, submit to search and seizure, and undergo a sex offender treatment program. Mercer cannot have any unsupervised contact with any minor children, and may only have supervised contact after 2 years and only upon probation authorizing the contact. Mercer was fined in the amount of \$1,000. This case was the result of a five month investigation by the United States Marshal's Service in Indiana and Illinois, Marion County (Indiana) Probation Office, and Decatur (Illinois) Police Department.

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